

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1.-26. Canceled

27. (Currently Amended) A fibrous reinforcing structure comprising:

at least one central layer of randomly distributed continuous strands, said continuous strands forming loops partially superposed one on top of another;

at least one first reinforcing fabric layer disposed exterior to the central layer of randomly distributed continuous strands; and

a second reinforcing fabric layer located on another side of the continuous strand layer from the first reinforcing fabric layer,

wherein the layers of the structure are linked together by a mechanical mechanism or a chemical mechanism and

wherein said loops of continuous strands are bound by a binder to fix the geometry of said loops, said binder being independent of said mechanical mechanism and/or said chemical mechanism.

28. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 27, wherein the continuous strand layer has a mass per unit area ranging from 200 to 700 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

29. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 28, wherein the continuous strand layer has a mass per unit area ranging from 350 to 550 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

30. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 27, wherein the reinforcing fabric layer comprises chopped strands.

31. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 30, wherein the reinforcing fabric layer has a mass per unit area ranging from 100 to 600 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

32. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 31, wherein the reinforcing fabric layer has a mass per unit area ranging from 200 to 400 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

33. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 30, wherein the chopped strands have a length ranging from 1 to 15 cm.

34. Canceled

35. (Previously Presented) The structure as claimed in claim 27, further comprising: at least one fleece forming at least one of two external faces of the structure.

36. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 35, wherein the at least one fleece has a mass per unit area ranging from 10 to 60 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

37. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 36, wherein the at least one fleece has a mass per unit area ranging from 20 to 40 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

38. (Currently Amended) The structure as claimed in claim 35, wherein said first and second reinforcing ~~non-fleece~~-fabric layers are bound together by stitching.

39. (Currently Amended) The structure as claimed in claim 35, wherein said first and second reinforcing ~~non-fleece~~-fabric layers are bound together by needle punching.

40. Canceled

41. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 27, wherein the fabric layers are bound together pairwise by a binder.

42. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 27, wherein the continuous strand layer includes notches for increasing its deformability.

43. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 42, wherein the notches have a length ranging from 0.01 to 0.35 times a width of the continuous strand layer.

44. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 43, wherein a direction of the notches is that of a width of the structure.

45. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 42, wherein the notches have a length ranging from 0.5 to 30 cm.

46. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 42, wherein the notches are present in an amount from 30 to 200 notches per m<sup>2</sup> of the continuous strand layer.

47. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 27, wherein the continuous strand layer is made of glass.

48. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 27, wherein the reinforcing fabric layer is made of glass.

49.-52. Canceled

53. (Currently Amended) A fibrous reinforcing structure comprising:  
at least one central layer of randomly distributed continuous strands;  
at least one first reinforcing layer disposed exterior to the central layer of randomly distributed continuous strands; and  
a second reinforcing layer located on an opposing side of the continuous strand layer from the first reinforcing layer,  
wherein the layers of the structure are linked together by a mechanical mechanism or a chemical mechanism, ~~and~~.

54. (Previously Presented) The fibrous structure of claim 53, further comprising at least one nonwoven veil positioned on an exterior surface of one or both of said first reinforcing layer and said second reinforcing layer.

55. (Previously Presented) The fibrous structure of claim 53, wherein said continuous strands form loops partially superposed one on top of another.

56. (Previously Presented) The fibrous structure of claim 55, wherein said loops are bound together by a binder.
57. (Previously Presented) The fibrous structure of claim 56, wherein said central layer, said first reinforcing layer, and said second reinforcing layer are linked by a mechanical mechanism selected from needle punching and stitching.
58. (Previously Presented) The fibrous structure of claim 56, wherein said central layer, said first reinforcing layer, and said second reinforcing layer are linked by at least one binder.
59. (Previously Presented) The fibrous structure of claim 55, wherein said central layer includes notches for increasing deformability.
60. (Previously Presented) The fibrous structure of claim 53, wherein said first and second reinforcing layers comprise chopped glass strands.
61. (New) The fibrous structure of claim 27, wherein said mechanical mechanism is at least one member selected from needle punching and stitching and said chemical mechanism is a binder.
62. (New) The fibrous structure of claim 53, wherein said mechanical mechanism is at least one member selected from needle punching and stitching and said chemical mechanism is a binder.